

Resolution #6

Submitted by: Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: September 25, 2021 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: **Feral Cats as an Invasive Species**

1 **WHEREAS**, millions of free-roaming and feral cats (*Felis catus*) exist on the landscape as non-native,
2 obligate predators and as such, cause considerable damage to wildlife populations killing several
3 hundreds of millions (birds, small mammals, amphibian, reptiles and fish); and,
4 **WHEREAS**, this represents a significant threat to the biodiversity/stability of ecosystems; and
5 **WHEREAS**, even a house cat allowed outside to roam and not in need of food will still hunt and kill
6 several animals each and every day; and,
7 **WHEREAS**, most of free-roaming and feral cats suffer the vicissitudes of (disease, , starvation, trauma)
8 and cannot be considered as being treated humanely and live shorter brutal lives as a result; and,
9 **WHEREAS**, these feral cats represent a human public health hazard as they carry several zoonotic
10 diseases such as toxoplasmosis, rabies, Francisella tularensis (trichinpsis), Yersinia pestis (plague),
11 Microsporium canis (ringworm), and fleas carrying typhus, not to mention diseases they can transmit to
12 other cats (FeLV, FIV, FRDC); and,
13 **WHEREAS**, current statutory status does not discriminate between feral and responsibly owned cats (but
14 merely as “domestic” which does not accurately describe the feral situation), and the eradication of feral
15 cats by the general public is considered a felony; NOW,
16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will support
17 the designation of feral cats as an invasive species and thereby subject to regulation as such.